

PROJECT SUMMARY

Velux Scholarship

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| Project title | VELUX Scholarship Programme for Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania |
| Project coordinator | <p>Ildikó Antal E-mail: ilan@iba.dk Mobile: +45-25284547 International Business Academy Skamlingvejen 32, DK - 6000, Kolding</p> |
| Participating institutions | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International Business Academy (IBA) – leadpartner Skamlingvejen 32 DK-6000 Kolding www.uk.iba.dk 2. Copenhagen School of Design and Technology (KEA) Ryesgade 3 F, 4. DK-2200 København N www.kea.dk 3. Erhvervsakademi MidtVest (EA MidtVest) Gl. Landevej 2 DK-7400 Herning www.eamv.dk |
| Overall duration time | <p>2011-2015</p> <p><u>Time schedule:</u> 2012 – autumn semester (approx. 50 students) 2013 – spring and autumn semesters (approx. 50 students/semester) 2014 – autumn semester (approx. 50 students) 2015 – spring and autumn semesters (approx. 50 students/semester)</p> |

1. The VELUX scholarship programme

The project is a scholarship programme for talented, but financially disadvantaged young people (full-time university students at undergraduate level study programmes) from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania who will be given the opportunity to enroll at a higher education institution in Denmark for a certain period (1-2 semesters). The project will also, to a lesser extent, support short-term (1 week) teacher exchange programmes enabling teachers from the participating Eastern European institutions to transfer knowledge and know-how to the institutions in their home countries.

2. Problem background of the project

Due to their family's limited financial resources and the limited financial support provided by the local governments, many university students in the Eastern European countries are not able to afford a study period abroad, which is an important prerequisite for success and career within an international environment. International education is not only beneficial for the individual student, but also contributes to the countries' economy and development.

Within the existing European scholarship programmes it is possible for Eastern European students to spend part of their studies in another EU country without paying tuition fees. However, the provided grants are not enough to cover travel, accommodation, food, books and other costs related to the study abroad stay. Therefore, despite of the opportunities provided within the European framework, many Eastern European students cannot afford a study abroad stay during their studies. Based on the above information, it is our understanding that there is a need for additional financial support for students with limited financial background. Within the VELUX Scholarship Programme, it is our aim to provide those students the opportunity to study in Denmark for one or two semesters, and hereby expand their horizon and contribute to their home country's development.

3. The main objective of the project

The objective is that 300 young people coming from a financially disadvantaged background in one of the six countries mentioned above will be given the chance to broaden their education and

improve their future prospects and labour market affiliation through a guest scholarship of 6 to 12 months in an international study environment at a Danish business academy. In addition to scholarships, the project will support travel and book expenses as well as teacher exchange programmes.

4. The International Business Academy (IBA)

Established in Kolding for many years, the IBA has grown into a major internationally recognized centre of excellence for degree programmes in management, marketing, finance and design at professional, bachelor's, master's and MBA levels. There are approx. 1200 full-time equivalent students studying at the IBA, of which approx. 25% are international.

IBA full-time programmes often include a period of work experience (internships) taken throughout the world, and offer students the opportunity to undertake study visits, business competitions and full-time study exchanges in other countries.

The IBA belongs to several international organisations, offering superb networking opportunities. The IBA is accredited by the Danish Education Ministry, and a number of its study programmes are validated by two UK universities, Coventry University and London South Bank University. The IBA was the first member of the Network of International Business Schools (NIBS) to be awarded international accreditation. The IBA also holds the Erasmus charter.

5. Copenhagen School of Design and Technology (KEA)

KEA is the Copenhagen School of Design and Technology with over 30 business-oriented degree programmes and further education. KEA offers 11 programmes conducted in English within the areas of media/it, building/production, design/business and leadership/management. An internship/work placement of min. 10 weeks is mandatory for all degree programmes. KEA has approx. 4000 students enrolled and they are distributed across six Schools, which are all centrally located in Copenhagen. KEA is accredited by the Danish Ministry of Education,

accredited by RICS, holds a membership of the AEEBC, and belongs to a number of Networking groups, national as well as international. KEA also holds an extended Erasmus Charter.

6. Erhvervsakademi Midt Vest (EAMV)

EA MidtVest offers a broad range of higher education programmes within business, technical and IT areas. Beside this the academy offers training and services for companies and employees in the region. The headquarter is based in Herning and beside this the academy has a branch in Holstebro. EA MidtVest is in the middle of formulating an international strategy and sees the VELUX Scholarship Project and the close collaboration with Danish and foreign institutions as a great opportunity to qualify and strenghten that process.

7. General requirements for the VELUX Scholarship Programme:

- ✓ Full-time students at undergraduate level study programmes
- ✓ 2nd and 3rd year students
- ✓ Good English skills
- ✓ Good grades
- ✓ Limited financial backgroud
- ✓ Credit transfer must be possible to the current study programme
- ✓ Citizens of Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland
- ✓ According to the study programme there will be additional academic requirements

8. Geography and main programme activities

The main activities of the Velux scholarship programme will be student mobility (one semester study period in Denmark) and teacher exchange between IBA, KEA, EAMV and the partner institutions in the following countries: Poland, Czech Republik, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria.

9. Procedures on handling the scholarships

First of all, there will be established partnerships with 2-3 higher education institutions in the above mentioned six countries. Selection of the partner universities will be based on a visit at the potential partner institutions.

In order to make sure that credit transfer will be possible, the study programmes offered by the potential partner institutions will be taken into considerations. It is essential, that the selected institutions offer study programmes similar to those offered by IBA, KEA and EAMV.

A written agreement on cooperation will be signed with each of the selected institutions. For signing an agreement, it is a prerequisite that a representative of IBA, KEA or EAMV visit the potential partner institution. In connection with the agreements a plan for publication of the programme and involvement of relevant local authorities will be discussed.

Applications for the scholarship have to be sent through the partner universities. Applications have to include the following documents:

- Application form
- CV
- Motivation letter (reasons for application, financial and social status, area of interest etc.)
- Recommendation letters (from teachers or/and employers)
- Transcript of records (university level studies)
- Proof of financial and social status (the documents can be different from country to country)

The first meetings with potential partner institutions indicates that many of the universities already have a database of students with disadvantageous social or/and financial background. If there will be a list of students with limited financial background available, we will take this into consideration.

In order to make sure that the selected students can follow classes in Denmark, we will organise an English test for all applicants. The English test will take place at the students's home institutions. Additionally, there will be a personal interview with all applicants.

10. Plans for sustainability

Hopefully there will be several long term outcomes of the VELUX scholarship program such as:

- A. The partnerships and the collaboration between partners and participants in the different countries have the potential to be developed further after the project period. There will be strong links established as the basis for this. Student exchange, teacher exchange, R&D projects and academic collaboration can continue. Some activities can continue under the EU programme for mobility called ERASMUS.

- B. During the project period links between academic partners and trade and industry in the participating countries have a potential to be developed with help from students, lecturers and participating authorities. All academy programmes in Denmark are delivered in close connection with industry. The outcome for the students will be much higher when the academic challenge is combined with experiences including Danish companies and their representatives.

- C. Local authorities as well as trade and business associations will, both at the initial stage and through the project period, be partners and add a more general dimension to the diffusion of the results of the overall results.